



NEWSLETTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA

No. 53

Chapel Hill

April 1965

1964 MERIT AWARD

We hereby nominate Mrs. Frank Folger for the Annual Merit Award of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina.

Mrs. Folger has shown a vigorous and sincere interest in the archaeology of North Carolina.

Her interest in archaeology grew out of her study of various facets of Colonial life in the area of Washington, North Carolina. In her search for colonial landings and wharfs, Mrs. Folger located a number of aboriginal habitation sites. She made systematic records of her collections, and notified the Research Laboratories of Anthropology of her finds. She has donated large quantities of material and completed numerous site survey reports. She plans to continue her area survey of Pitt and Beaufort counties.

Mrs. Folger has given freely of her time and knowledge. Her unselfish attitude, realization of the archaeological method, and of her role within the science of archaeology have gained the respect of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology and deserve the recognition of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina.

MEETING AT TOWN CREEK INDIAN MOUND

May 1, 1965

1:30 PM

Society members are particularly urged to attend the meeting at Town Creek Indian Mound on May 1st. On this occasion the handsome restoration will be officially dedicated as a National Historic Landmark. Only one other site in North Carolina has received this honor - Fort Fisher.

At 1:30 P.M. the park will open. At 2:00 P.M. J.C. Harrington, archaeologist with the National Park Service, will speak and present a bronze plaque. After the speech, Society members are invited to enjoy a conducted tour of the restoration, including the Burial House and other new exhibits.

LOCATION OF INDIAN MOUND - Town Creek Indian Mound is located on an un-numbered cross-road that runs from N.C. 731 to N.C. 73 just east of Mount Gilead. Both intersections are marked.

FALL MEETING OF A.S.N.C. HELD IN CHAPEL HILL

The fall meeting of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina was held in Chapel Hill on November 4, 1964 with the Research Laboratories of Anthropology as host. Mrs. James F. McMillan, President, presided over the gathering of approximately 70 persons, including 25 students from Pikesville High School.

The morning session consisted of illustrated talks by Robert G.H. Crawford, Bennie C. Keel, Brian J. Egloff, and Stanley A. South, abstracts of which are included in this letter, and a talk on the Palenque Area of Mexico by Robert L. Rands. Discussion periods followed each talk.

1965 A.S.N.C. OFFICERS

President	R.W. Work, Hillcrest Circle, Chapel Hill.
Vice-President	Jerry Jernigan, 210 Purdie Building, Dunn.
Secretary-Treasurer	Mae Bell, Box 442, Rocky Mount.
Executive Board	Ida Irvine, Route 1, Box 11, Tar Heel. Gordon Bordeaux, 511 Marcella Drive, Kinston. Conway Rose, 400 S. Jefferson St., Goldsboro.
Editor	Paul Smith, 119 E. Franklin Street, Chapel Hill.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT - November 1964

Active	183
Sustaining	27
Junior	<u>17</u>
Total	227

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1965 Dues are Due--PLEASE!

ABSTRACTS OF TALKS GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

"An Archaeological Survey of the Kinston Area"
by Robert G. H. Crawford, Archaeologist,
Town Creek Indian Mound

In August 1964 an archaeological survey of Lenoir County and its environs was begun. It was hoped that the material recovered during this survey would provide data upon which to base a relative chronology of the North Carolina Coastal Plain. With this aim in mind, special attention was paid to locating either single component or deep stratified sites; unfortunately, neither was found. It is hoped that through test excavations on selected sites, pits will be found that can be seriated and provide the necessary data for a chronology.

A preliminary analysis of recovered material indicates an extensive Archaic occupation of the area. Projectile points collected include Stanly, Kirk, Morrow Mountain I and II, and Savannah River. Ceramic materials consist of cord-marked, fabric-marked, net impressed, and simple stamped. Temper is sand, crushed quartz, and clay. One site has been located on which are found clay balls with an associated ceramic ware with fabric-marking and clay temper.

"Excavation of a Historic Cherokee House, Cherokee County, N.C."
by Bennie C. Keel, Archaeologist,
Research Laboratories of Anthropology

Excavation of a late 18th Century Cherokee house was accomplished in July and August of 1964. This excavation provided a closed context for the identification of a historic Cherokee ceramic series. This series is characterized by a well made sand-tempered ware exhibiting a number of surface finishes and a variety of forms. Trade goods consisted of glass beads, iron pins, tomahawks, brass strap clasps, and a brass pin.

The use of split logs is an interesting aspect of the construction of the house. Food remains present in and around a puddled clay hearth consisted of a variety of animal remains, with deer being the most common. Vegetable foods consisted of corn, hickory nuts, peach pits, and seeds which may be squash or pumpkin.

"Excavation of a Proto-Historic Cherokee House,
Cherokee County, N.C."
by Brian J. Egloff, Archaeological Assistant,
Research Laboratories of Anthropology

Excavation commenced on August 14th, 1964 and lasted until September 4th, 1964. An area of 30 square feet was investigated, and proved to contain the remains of a burned dwelling. The house was approximately

20 feet in diameter with a central puddled clay hearth. The roof was conical and supported by poles.

Outside of the area occupied by the house there were a number of Archaic hearths that had projectile points and steatite pottery associated with them.

"Excavating the Ruins of the 18th Century
Moravian Town of Bethabara"
by Stanley A. South, Archaeologist,
Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

The ruins of Bethabara, first settled in 1753 by Moravians from Pennsylvania, were examined during the summer of 1964 by Stanley A. South, archaeologist for the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, North Carolina. A total of over twenty ruins were located, including the Gemein House, the Gunsmith Shop, the Business Manager's House, the Brothers' House, the Millwright's House, and the Tailor Shop.

The cellars were cleaned of their fill, revealing the stone steps and cellar foundation walls. The fill contained many objects of interest, particularly ceramics made in the pottery in Bethabara by Gottfried Aust. The ruin of the pottery and the adjoining dump for wasted materials from the kilns was of special interest, producing many objects that were restored in the laboratory set up on the site. Mrs. Jewel South, director of the field laboratory, supervised a crew that steam cleaned the thousands of pottery fragments, and glued many together after they were catalogued.

This archaeological project is sponsored by the Moravian Church and is financed by Mr. Charles Babcock, Sr., of Winston-Salem. Further work is planned for the spring and summer of 1965.

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An Announcement

Don't Despair!! Volumes XV and XVI of SOUTHERN INDIAN STUDIES are now in press. They will be issued as quickly as possible.

A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR

Perhaps it has never occurred to you, but those of us whose name is Smith waste a lot of time answering loud speakers in airports and opening the wrong letters. After a while, we just assume that when we hear our name, the call is for somebody else. Believe it or not, that is the reason your NEWSLETTER is late. When, by some slip, your editor was not notified of his election, he wasted a lot of time wondering what other North Carolinian shared both his name and his interest in archaeology....

Perhaps wasted is not the right word, since the time included a vacation in Mexico. For those of you who might enjoy such a trip, here's an itinerary, loaded with archaeology. Start at MERIDA, Yucatan ...see Chichen Itza and Uxmal, and if you have time, Sayil and Labna. Fly to VILLA HERMOSA, Tabasco, where you'll find two excellent museums --the Parque Olmeca contains most of the surviving materials from the great ruin of La Venta, in an out-door setting. From here you can take a small plane to PALENQUE, the great Maya ruin where our own Dr. Robert Rands, Assistant Director of the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, is now at work. Fly to VERA CRUZ, and dicker for a car to take you up to Mexico City, by way of Jalapa, where there is a very fine museum of Olmex, Totonac and other Gulf Coast cultures, and Papantla, which is near the ruins of El Tajin. Much new restoration is here and it is very impressive. In Mexico City, don't miss the new Museo Nacional de Antropologia--a fine collection in an architecturally stunning setting, and directed by Dr. Ignacio Bernal, whom you may have met at the national convention of the Society for American Archaeology at Chapel Hill last year.

In going over the material for this issue, your editor was impressed by mention of 25 high school students attending the fall meeting of the Society. Archaeology is a field that is fascinating to the teen-ager, and whether his energy goes into scrambling up a site, or being of real service, will largely depend on our ability to interest him in proper techniques.

Finally--don't miss that meeting at Town Creek Indian Mound. Like charity, archaeological sightseeing should begin at home, and there are few handsomer restorations anywhere than that at Town Creek.

P.S.